

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 175153
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05
ERDA-05 SS-15 OES-07 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
/095 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:BFOPPEL:GDG
APPROVED BY IO:JABAKER
L/UNA:RFSTOWE (SUBS)
OES/SCI/APT:IPIKUS (SUBS)
IO/IEP:WWOODBURY (SUBS)
-----088388 270032Z /73

O R 262343Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 175153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, TSPA

SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC CONSIDERATION OF GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT

REF.: GENEVA 6285

1. DEL SHOULD CONSULT WITH UK DEL (DALTON) ON COLOMBIAN
ATTEMPT TO HAVE ECOSOC CONSIDER GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT (GSO)
ISSUE AND SHOULD INTERVENE IN ECOSOC DEBATE AS APPRO-
PRIATE TO SUPPORT UK LEAD ON THIS ISSUE. U.S. OBJECTIVE
IS TO AVOID ECOSOC CONSIDERATION OF GSO ISSUE.

2. GSO ISSUE WAS RAISED BY COLOMBIANS AT JUNE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 175153

1977 MEETING OF UN COMMITTEE ON
PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE BUT GOT NO SUPPORT FOR THE
RIGHT OF SUBJACENT STATES TO EXERCISE SOVEREIGNTY OVER
THE GSO. IN ADDRESSING GSO ISSUE, DEL SHOULD DRAW AS
NECESSARY ON FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

A. GSO IS BUT ONE OF AN INFINITE NUMBER OF ORBITS INTO

WHICH SATELLITES CAN BE PLACED AND ITS PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS ARE FUNCTIONS OF BOTH THE TOTAL GRAVITATIONAL FIELD OF THE EARTH AND THE ROTATION OF THE WHOLE EARTH.

B. THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GSO AND ANY UNDERLYING COUNTRY. ENTRY INTO GSO CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH LAUNCH FROM ANY COUNTRY ON EARTH; THE ENERGY REQUIREMENTS FOR INSERTION INTO GSO VARY WITH PAYLOAD MASS AND LATITUDE OF LAUNCH AMONG OTHER FACTORS. THE ORBIT IS COMPLETELY UNAFFECTED BY NATIONAL BOUNDARIES ON THE EARTH.

C. BECAUSE OF PERTURBATIVE EFFECTS ARISING FROM THE ACTIONS OF THE SUN, MOON AND LARGE PLANETS, AS WELL AS FROM ASYMMETRIES IN THE EARTH'S MASS DISTRIBUTION, THE GSO IS NOT ONE IN WHICH A SATELLITE WILL REMAIN STEADY INDEFINITELY. IT IS ACHIEVABLE ONLY TO AN APPROXIMATION AND SATELLITES REQUIRE ADJUSTMENT MANEUVERS TO MAINTAIN A STEADY GSO.

D. GIVEN THE EARTH'S MASS AND ROTATION RATE, THE GSO IS ROUGHLY 22,300 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH'S SURFACE. IT IS THEREFORE FAR BEYOND THE ALTITUDES OF MOST SATELLITES CURRENTLY IN ORBIT OR PLANNED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 175153

E. REGARDLESS OF THE ABSENCE OF ANY SPECIFIC AGREED-UPON DEFINITION OR DELIMITATION OF OUTER SPACE, THERE IS NO TECHNICAL OR LEGAL BASIS FOR CONSIDERING THE GSO NOT TO LIE IN OUTER SPACE. THEREFORE, ITS USE MUST BE GUIDED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1967 TREATY.

F. THERE IS NO BASIS WITHIN THE 1967 TREATY FOR TREATING GSOS DIFFERENTLY FROM ANY OTHER ORBITS. FURTHERMORE, THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY PRECLUDE ANY CLAIMS OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER GSOS OR PORTIONS THEREOF.

G. GSOS WERE UNDERSTOOD AND UTILIZED BEFORE AND DURING THE NEGOTIATION OF THE 1967 TREATY AND IT IS CLEAR THAT NO DISTINCTION WAS INTENDED TO BE DRAWN NOR ANY SPECIAL TERMS INTENDED TO APPLY TO GSOS.

VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPACE FLIGHT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE175153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BFOPPEL:GDG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770266-1303
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770716/aaaaaocp.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7148663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GENEVA 6285
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1742073
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 63RD ECOSOC CONSIDERATION OF GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT
TAGS: TSPA, ECOSOC
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7148663-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009